

Military Academy Nominations - FAQs

Frequently asked questions for those seeking a Military Academy nomination.

What is a nomination?

Members of Congress may nominate applicants who meet the eligibility requirements established by law. Be advised, you must apply to the Academy *DIRECTLY*, as well. A candidate may seek a nomination from the following:

- A member of the U.S. House of Representatives who represents the congressional district in which the candidate resides
- Both U.S. Senators from his or her state
- Apply directly to the Vice-President of the United States

What are the basic eligibility requirements?

Each applicant for a nomination must meet the following eligibility requirements as of July 1st of the year of admission to an academy:

- Age: Be at least 17 years old, but not have passed the 23rd birthday at the time of admission to the Academy
- Citizenship: Must be a U.S. citizen
- Marital Status: Must be unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents
- Residence: Must reside within the boundaries of the First Congressional District of South Carolina.
- Skill / Fitness: Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academy.

Who do I contact to request an application?

Contact my office at (843) 852-2222 to request a nomination packet.

When do I apply for a nomination?

My nomination application period opens March 1st of each year for those candidates who are high school juniors and will be seniors the following school year, or who have already graduated.

What is the deadline for completing a nomination file?

The deadline for submitting a nomination packet to my District Office is normally October 31st. Please contact my office at (843) 852-2222 for more specifics.

What must be included in my nomination file?

A complete nomination file consists of the following items:

- Current photo (portrait-style preferred)
- [School Guidance Counselor/Principal Form](#)
- High school transcript
- Physician's certificate stating your present physical condition. (Complete physical is not required)
- American College Testing Program (ACT) results and/or College Board Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) results
- Resume of extracurricular activities
- A statement explaining why you want to attend a service academy to include:
 - a. Why do you desire training at the Academy?
 - b. Do you intend to make the military a career?
 - c. In what way do you feel you have demonstrated your leadership, ability and aptitude?
 - d. Have you or any members of your family served in the military?
 - e. Have you been a member of JROTC, National Guard, Boy/Girl Scouts or similar groups?
 - f. Have you found it necessary during your high school years to earn money to help pay your way through school or assist your family?

- g. Who has most influenced your life thus far, and why?
- h. Any other information you feel would be helpful.
- Minimum of three letters of recommendation

What happens after I have completed my nomination file?

Applicants who submit a completed nomination file will be scheduled for an interview in late October or early November.

What criteria are used in selecting candidates?

Nominations are based on a "whole person" evaluation. Factors such as academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, leadership skills, physical aptitude, character and motivation are taken into consideration and compared with other applicants.

How many academies are there?

There are five service academies. In addition to applying to my office for a nomination, you must also complete and submit the admissions application to your academy or academies of choice

United States Air Force Academy Director of Admissions Colorado Springs , Colorado 80840 1-800-443-9266 www.usafa.af.mil	United States Military Academy Admissions Office West Point , New York 10996 1-800-822-ARMY www.usma.edu
United States Merchant Marine Academy Admissions Office Kings Point , New York 11024 1-800-732-6267 www.usmma.edu	United States Naval Academy Director of Candidate Guidance Annapolis , Maryland 21402 1-800-249-7707 www.usna.edu

The United States Coast Guard Academy does not require congressional nominations. If you are interested in attending the USCG Academy, please contact them directly:

United States Coast Guard Academy Admissions New London , CT 06320 1-800-883-8724 www.cga.edu

Are the requirements the same for all of the service academies?

No. Although many of the qualifications are similar, each academy operates under its own admissions guidelines. Visit the academy of your choice via the websites noted for each academy's particular admissions qualifications. It is not necessary to seek a nomination to the Coast Guard Academy, as the U.S.C.G.A. accepts candidates based on their own testing criteria.

Who should I ask to write a letter of recommendation on my behalf?

Some of the people applicants typically seek recommendations from include:

- Teachers
- Counselors
- Employers
- Coaches
- Community Leaders
- Clergy

- Scout Leaders

I do not require a specific recommendation form, other than the [Guidance Counselors/Principals form](#). A letter of recommendation is sufficient.

Will I automatically be selected by the academy after I receive a nomination?

No. You will be placed among a select group of nominees, and the academy of your choice will make the final decision. If selected, you will receive an offer of admission (an appointment) directly from the academy.

What if I choose more than one academy? Will I be limited to a single nomination?

No. You can be nominated to multiple academies depending on how well you have competed among this year's pool of candidates. It is also possible to win multiple appointments.

When will I know if I have been offered an appointment by an academy?

Academies will begin to notify candidates of their admission status in February. All offers of appointment are generally sent out by May.